Climate change

*458. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stage of the concern and priorities of Government on climate change;

(b) whether there is a National Plan, based on the experience and expertise and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a Strength Weakness Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis was made and whether the country is confident of tackling the problem of climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Climate change is a serious global environmental concern. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global atmospheric concentrations of Greenhouse Gas have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values. As projected by IPCC, climate change can slow down the pace of progress towards sustainable development either directly through increased exposure to adverse impact or indirectly through erosion of the capacity to adapt. It may also alter the distribution and quality of India's natural resources. India is faced with the challenge of sustaining its rapid economic growth while dealing with the global threat of climate change.

Recognizing the challenge of climate change, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was prepared based on the experience, expertise and information available through various studies. The NAPCC was released on 30th June 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change. The National Action plan outlines eight Missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change. It outlines a number of steps that will enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path.

Climate Change is a multi-dimensional issue. Studies have been conducted on different aspects of the climate change phenomenon. NAPCC is a comprehensive response to the challenge of climate change in the country.

Commitment at Copenhagen Summit on climate change

*459. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given any specific commitment at the Copenhagen Summit on climate change to reduce the quantum of greenhouse gases within a time frame;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken into consideration that the commitment in this regard does not hamper the development needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) The Government has conveyed to the Parliament that India can have a 20-25 % reduction in emissions intensity between 2005 & 2020. This will be a voluntary domestic commitment and will not form part of any international agreement committing to binding emission intensity or emission reduction targets.

The exercise in Planning Commission has found that the emission intensity has declined by 17.06 % between 1990 and 2005. Further the Planning Commission has concluded that we can have a 20-25 % reduction in emissions intensity between 2005 & 2020. The government is fully committed to Sustainable Development in the Country.

Amendment in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act

*460. DR. GYANPRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several amendments have been proposed by her Ministry in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, to widen its scope and make the punishments more stringent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale therefor;

(c) the efficacies of the shelter homes run by her Ministry, their number and their average annual occupancy; and

(d) to what extent the Ujjawala scheme has been effective in prevention of trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposed Amendments inter-alia include raising the age of the child from 16 to 18 years, having a comprehensive definition for 'trafficking in persons', laying down punishment for a person who visits a brothel for purpose of sexual exploitation of trafficked victims, providing for "in-camera" trial to victims to protect their privacy and constitution of Central and State Authorities for dealing with trafficking. There is also a proposal to make Amendments to provide for enhanced punishment for perpetrators of the crime such as brothel keepers and traffickers. The purport of these Amendments is to extend the coverage of the Act, discourage trafficking and at the same time provide safeguards to the trafficked victims.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been providing financial assistance to NGOs for setting up Shelter Homes. Under the Ujjawala Scheme, 58 Protective and Rehabilitative Homes have been set up which can accommodate nearly 2900 trafficked victims. These Homes provide facilities such as shelter, food, clothing, medical care, legal aid, education and vocational training to these victims.